

REMARKS

This amendment after final rejection should be entered because it amends the claims to overcome the objections and rejections to the form of the claims under section 112. These claim amendments include those made to comply with the requirement to amend claim 7 stated in the Action at paragraph 1 and place the claims in better form for appeal, if an appeal is necessary. Accordingly, the amendment should be entered under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The objection to claim 7 has been overcome by making the amendment suggested in the Action.

The rejection of claims 1 to 15 as lacking an enabling disclosure has been cured by amendment in part and is traversed in part.

- Claim 7 has been amended to state that the cap side surface is parallel to the side of the stem. This amendment is consistent with the statement in the Action that the “side surface” of the cap is perpendicular to the end surface of the stem/end section. Figure 5 of this application shows that the side surface of the cap is parallel to the side surface of the stem.
- Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite an end section (stem) of the fiber bundle that is narrower than the inside diameter of the housing for the filter. As shown in Figure 4, the inside diameter of the housing (504) is substantially greater than the diameter of the end section (stem) of the fiber bundle (indicated by the end 505 of the stem in Fig. 4). Claims 1 and 7 have been

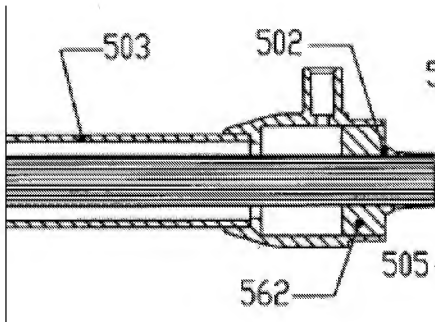
amended to cure the enable rejection regarding the stem being a smaller diameter than the rest of the bundle of fibers. However, the specification does disclose a stem narrower than the rest of the bundle of fibers in disclosing the exemplarily fiber bundle has having a stem with a diameter of 11.43 mm (1.143 cm) (para. 0033) and a 1.2 cm diameter for the rest of the bundle of fibers (para. 0037).

- The term “inward” has been deleted from the claims to overcome the section 112 rejections as they relate to that term.

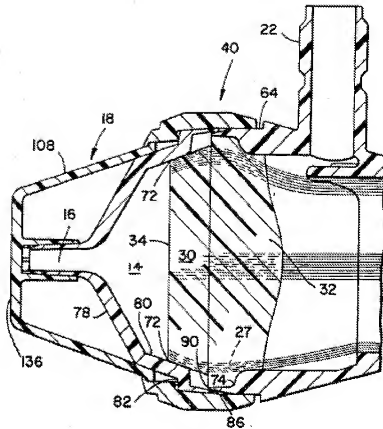
The rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 as being anticipated by Geel et al (US Patent 4,414,110) is traversed. Independent claim 1 has been amended to require the end section (stem) of the fiber bundle to be narrower than the inside diameter of the fiber housing. In contrast, the wide mouth end section of the fiber bundle in Geel et al has a larger diameter than the housing.

The rejected claims are directed to a filter having a narrow end cap that fits over a stem of fiber bundles which is necked down from the filter housing that contains remainder of the fiber bundle. The claims have been amended to make clear that the end section (stem) is substantially narrower than the inside diameter of the housing. Figure 4 of this application shows the small diameter stem of the fiber bundle extending from a larger diameter fiber bundle and snugly fitting into an end cap. A portion of figure 4 is presented below to show that the inside diameter of the filter housing (503) is

substantially larger than the outside diameter of the end section (stem) of the fiber bundle.



The filter shown in Geel et al has a wide mouth end cap that fits over a fiber bundle that expands to receive the end cap, as shown in Figure 5 of Geel presented below:



The end section of the fiber bundle in Geel et al is wider than the cylindrical housing for the fiber. By disclosing a wide end for the fiber bundle, Geel et al teach away from the present invention in which the end section (stem) of the fiber bundle is narrower than the housing for the fibers of the filter.

The rejection of dependent claims 3 and 4 as being obvious over Geel et al is traversed for the same reasons as stated above for independent claim 1.

New claims 16 and 17 are also directed to the fiber filter disclosed in this application that is patentably distinct from the filter shown in Geel et al. Claims 16 and 17 include elements for a potting material base is a ring (562 in Fig. 4) of potting material that is substantially devoid of fibers and the stem of fibers extends from the potting material base. Geel et al. does not show a potting material base.

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Jeffry Nelson/

Jeffry H. Nelson
Reg. No. 30,481

JHN:glf
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100